

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 cancelled.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A remote maintenance system, in which a maintenance center in charge of remote maintenance is connected to an apparatus-to-be-maintained with a communication channel, and a maintenance monitor mechanism is installed in the apparatus-to-be-maintained or on the communication channel, wherein

the maintenance monitor mechanism comprises:

 a maintenance control section that controls and carries out remote maintenance of the apparatus-to-be-maintained, and

 a display unit;

 a maintenance history storage unit is installed in the maintenance center; and

 when the communication channel between the maintenance center and the apparatus-to-be-maintained is connected, the maintenance history storage unit compares the maintenance history recorded at the last connection of the communication channel in the maintenance history storage unit in the maintenance center with the maintenance history recorded in the maintenance history storage unit in the maintenance monitor mechanism, and if the two records match each other, the remote maintenance is carried out, and if the two records do not agree with match each other, the communication channel is shut down.

Claim 16 (previously presented) A remote maintenance system according to claim 15, wherein

 the maintenance history in the maintenance history storage unit is displayed on the display.

Claim 17 (previously presented) A remote maintenance system according to claim 15, wherein at least one of :

 a required maintenance interval,
 a current time of the timer, and

a maintenance history in the maintenance history storage unit, either in strings of numeric values of the frequency distribution calculated per specified unit time, or in a form of distribution calculated per specified unit time, or in a form of distribution histogram charting the strings of numeric values in time series, is displayed in the display.

Claim 18 (previously presented) A remote maintenance system according to claim 15, wherein the latest date of maintenance performed is output from the maintenance history storage unit, and

if the difference between the present date and the latest date of maintenance performed is equal to or shorter than the required maintenance interval, an indication of NO PROBLEMS IN MAINTENANCE is displayed, and

if the difference is longer than the required maintenance interval, an indication of PROBLEM IN MAINTENANCE is displayed.

Claim 19 (previously presented) A remote maintenance system according to claim 18, wherein the latest date of maintenance among current maintenance dates in which no problem has been found is utilized instead of the latest date of maintenance performed.